SPORTS

Winchester boys baseball rattles off four straight wins to build up momentum for upcoming playoffs

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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Winchester High baseball senior shortstop Connor Pandolph fires to first, while warming up before the game against Reading at Lowell's LeLacheur Park on April 23. Pandolph will be seeing a lot of LeLacheur the next four years after committing to go to UMass Lowell, starting in the fall. COURTESY PHOTO

With just four games left in the regular season, the Winchester H baseball team (11-5) couldn't be any hotter.

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The Red & Black have won four straight games starting with the 8-2 win over visiting Watertown on April 30. They were then all over host Burlington two days later on May 2 to the tune of 13-2, followed by triumphs against Arlington (10-6, May 6) and Woburn (2-1, May 8).

As a result of their successes, Coach Ed McDonald's team was seeded 22nd in the latest Division 1 power rankings on May 6 that didn't take into account the Arlington and Woburn games. They are bound to move up, when the rankings are updated next week. There are 60 teams in Division 1.

Winchester High baseball coach Ed McDonald talks to Adam Fiorentino before the game against Reading at Lowell's LeLacheur Park on April 23. COURTESY PHOTO

"We were definitely happy to get our 10th win against Arlington to clinch a state tournament berth after what we had to deal with last year," said McDonald. "Our No. 1 goal has always been to get into the postseason, but we still have four more tough games left on the regular season so against really good teams before thinking about the playoffs."

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The team's recent winning streak started against Watertown. Steve McCabe pitched the first 5.2-innings to secure the win. He gave up four hits, two walks and one earned run, while striking out seven. Rami Flummerfelt finished up on the mound, allowing two hits, one walk and one earned run over 1.1-innings.

The Winchester boys banged out nine hits, led by first baseman Brett Daniels with two singles and a triple that resulted in three RBI for him. Shortstop Connor Pandolph collected two singles. Second baseman Nick Penicaud drove home two with a single. Centerfielder Adam Fiorentino and Nolan Gannon each singled in a run. Right-fielder Alex Casey contributed a single to the winning cause.

The Burlington game was cut short in the fifth inning, because of the mercy rule. Nick Penicaud pitched the first 3.2-innings, yielding three hits, one walk and two earned runs. He fanned two. Fiorentino hurled one inning. He issued one hit and three walks, and was credited with one strikeout.

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The Red & Black offense collected nine more hits in this game. Daniels once again powered the attack with a triple. He also had a walk, and was responsible for three RBI, while also scoring two runs. Casey had two singles and a walk, and scored twice. Harrison Burbine doubled in two runs. Brendan Bock also chipped in with a double to knock in another Winchester run in this game. Catcher Ronan O'Connell accounted for a two-run single. Gannon singled twice, one of which drove home a run. He also scored twice. Fiorentino factored into the offense with a run-producing single.

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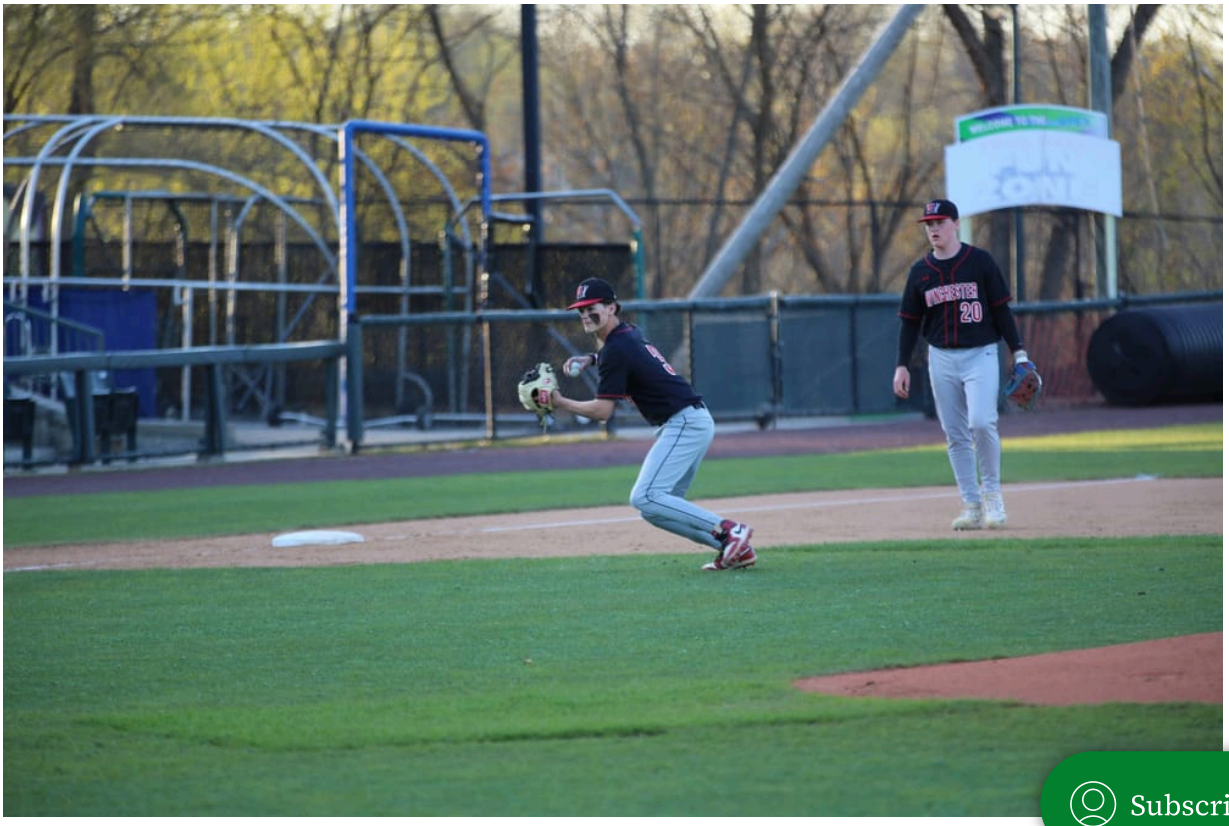
Owen Penicaud (4 innings, 4 runs, 3 earned, 3 hits, 3 walks, 3 strikeouts) and Burbine (3 innings, 2 earned runs, 2 hits, 5 walks, 2 strikeouts) were on the mound for Winchester in the Arlington game. Owen, like his brother Nick in the Burlington game, was the winning pitcher.

The Winchester boys banged out 11 hits, and Fiorentino helped supply the fireworks with a three-run homer. Daniels (single, double 2 RBI) and Pandolph (2 singles) were the team's other offensive leaders in this game.

The Red & Black closed out the first week of a new month with a narrow win over the Tanners. They scored the game-winner in the top of the seventh.

Casey (4 innings, 2 hits, 0 walks, 1 earned run, 5 strikeouts) and Fiorentino (3 innings, 0 hits, 3 walks, 0 runs, 2 strikeouts) pitched for Winchester. Fiorentino ended up with the win. But it was Casey's first time on the mound this spring after incurring an injury in an early April game.



Winchester High baseball third baseman Noah Seitz gets set to throw to first as he gets ready for a game at Lowell's LeLacheur Park on April 23. COURTESY PHOTO

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"He's our senior captain, who will definitely help us a lot down the stretch in the pitching department, while adding to the depth of the staff," said McDonald.

The offense made the hits count to win the game. It had seven altogether, and all of them were singles. Gannon had two of them to pace the attack, one of them drove in a run.

McDonald has a simple explanation for this current winning streak.

"It's a successful recipe of good starting and relief pitching that gives up few walks, while the offense gets timely hits," he said. "We had a three-game losing streak this year, when we didn't do any of that.

"In these four games, we got good production from all nine players in the starting lineup, and they also didn't strikeout that much," McDonald added. "The message is clear: Put the ball in play and keep it simple."

The Red & Black have two home games next week at Ciarcia Field against Lexington (May 13, 4:15 p.m.) and Reading (May 15, 7 p.m.). They defeated the Minutemen, 5-1, but lost to the Rockets, 5-2 the first time around last month.

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SPORTS

Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

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With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoc English, Sarpong, Bu Middlesex League elite

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The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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February 27, 2026

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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Latest

EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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